

Guide to Primary Care Optometry in Wales for Healthcare Professionals

Optometry Practices provide a range of contracted NHS eye care Service levels called Wales General Ophthalmic Services (WGOS 1-5). Some Contractors provide a domiciliary service either in addition to a practice-based or a standalone service. People resident in Wales are entitled to an NHS funded domiciliary service if their circumstances relating to their physical or mental illness or disability make it impossible or unreasonable for them to receive WGOS at a fixed premises. Your local Optometry practice or Optometry Collaborative Lead will be able to provide further details of domiciliary providers in your cluster.

WGOS 1: NHS Eye Examination/Sight Test - accessible to eligible patients

All WGOS Optometry Practices in Wales provide this service (fixed premises and domiciliary). Eligibility to NHS eye examinations and spectacles can be found [here](#)

WGOS1, WGOS2 and WGOS5 are available to all individuals, regardless of where they reside, providing they meet the eligibility or clinical criteria.

WGOS2: NHS urgent eye care service (free NHS funded Service for ALL patients)

All WGOS Optometry Practices in Wales (fixed premises and domiciliary) provide a free NHS service for any person with an urgent eye problem. Patients can self-refer or be referred to the practice by a healthcare professional. The patient is advised to phone their usual (or preferred) Optometry practice, the patient will be triaged and provided with an appointment within an appropriate timescale.

Health Boards have advised that certain conditions should be directed towards A & E rather than Optometry Practices including orbital trauma, chemical injuries (irrigate first), signs/symptoms suggestive of stroke.

A healthcare professional may also refer into the service if they have concerns regarding the eye health of the patient, including non-urgent conditions. The patient should mention to the Optometry Practice that they have been referred by their healthcare professional due to an eye health concern to potentially avoid an examination charge. Optometry Practices are grateful for any information received from the referring healthcare professional.

WGOS3: Low Vision Service Wales

Many WGOS Optometry Practices (fixed premises and domiciliary) provide the Low Vision Service Wales which aims to support patients experiencing sight loss for eye conditions that cannot be corrected by spectacles. Referral into WGOS3 is following a sight test/eye examination (WGOS1). The patient will be assessed and provided with NHS funded support which may include optical aids e.g. magnifying devices or non-optical aids e.g. enhanced lighting or referral to other support agencies.

WGOS3 and WGOS4 are available to people resident in Wales and/or who are on the practice list of a GP in Wales, providing they meet the clinical eligibility criteria.

WGOS4: Monitoring/Referral Filtering services for Glaucoma and Medical Retina eye conditions

Some Optometry Practices have gained higher qualifications in Glaucoma and Medical Retina eye conditions. Hospital eye services in Wales are/will be discharging suitable low risk patients to these Practices for Monitoring. These WGOS4 Practices are also involved with Referral Filtering i.e. if an Optometry Practice suspects that a patient may have Glaucoma or a Medical Retina eye condition, the patient will be referred (as appropriate) to these WGOS4 Practices for an enhanced eye examination to filter out patients who do not require a hospital assessment. Referral into WGOS4 is arranged via the patient's own Optometry Practice or from their local Ophthalmology Department.

WGOS5: Independent Prescribing Service

Some Optometry Practices in Wales provide an Independent Prescribing (IP) Service. Patients should be directed to ring their own Optometry Practice first for an NHS urgent eye care WGOS2 appointment. Following that assessment, the Practice will arrange for referral for an Independent Prescribing WGOS5 assessment if appropriate, rather than the patient attending Eye Casualty or their GP. IP Optometrists are provided with a WP10 NHS prescribing pad.